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Resolution 1975-12-22 Extended Fisheries Jurisdiction

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 1975-12-22

EXTENDED FISHERIES JURISDICTION

WHEREAS, foreign nations are intensively exploiting stocks of marine fish adjacent to the United States coast and over our continental shelf; and

WHEREAS, these vessels are not subject to state regulations designed to conserve our fishery resources; and

WHEREAS, this harvest is conducted concurrently with a United States fishery which is closely regulated to protect these same stocks; and

WHEREAS, many stocks have been overexploited by these high seas fisheries and such overexploitation demonstrates the conservation need for close regulation and supervision of foreign nations; and

WHEREAS, management of many coastal species requires coordinated regulation between states; and

WHEREAS, under an extension of jurisdiction it will be necessary to define state and federal responsibility for management of fishery stocks beyond the territorial waters; and

WHEREAS, such management must be coordinated so that each species is managed by a single authority; and

WHEREAS, management should be accomplished at a regional level for maximum input from a local level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, requests the Congress to immediately pass legislation adopting a 200-mile economic zone off the coast of the United States in order to conserve and protect this nation's fishery resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Association urges that legislation include an appropriately funded management institution to designate and coordinate state and federal responsibilities for marine fish management programs to collect basic information from the fishery and to define responsibility for regulatory authority by establishing regional management councils made up of the appropriate state or states and the Federal Government, with provisions for international management of highly migratory oceanic species.